



*Flathead Conservation District*  
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**CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

**Board members present:** Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Also in attendance were: Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps & FCD; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute; Don & Mary Garner; Karly Hanson; Darian Enders.

**MINUTES:** Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 310-meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Lake CD is advertising for a *Conservation Coordinator*. Contact [LakeCountyCD@gmail.com](mailto:LakeCountyCD@gmail.com) by May 13, 2016.
2. April 21, 2016 issue of *The Montana Conservationist*
3. Thank-you letter from John Wheaton & James Rose, USGS Hydrogeologists.
4. Thank-you card from college scholarship recipient Karly Hanson.
5. DEQ Stormwater Management training schedule. Contact DEQ Water Quality Division 406-475-2138.
6. Copy of letter from ACOE to Mike Rowe withdrawing application for project on Flathead River.
7. Lower Musselshell CD is hosting a Conservation Easement Workshop on May 3, 2016, 10:00 A.M., basement of Saint Benedicts Catholic Church, Roundup, MT. Contact 406-323-2101.
8. Notice from DNRC re: new Water Planner, Ada Montague will serve as staff for the Governor’s Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, and as lead planner in the Clark Fork/Kootenai Basin.



**FINANCIAL:**

The following bill was paid prior to the business meeting:

1. Raymond Riel \$2527.50

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Casper College \$1000.00
2. CenturyLink \$254.74
3. VISA \$2239.38
4. MontanaSky Networks \$34.95

Camisha Sawtelle made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:** Darian Ender and Carly Hanson both thanked the board for the college scholarships, talked about the activities and groups they had been involved in, and reported on the schools and career paths they have chosen.

**HASKILL/WATER TREATMENT PROJECT:** Mike Koopal, Whitefish Lake Institute, made a request to the Board to sponsor a DNRC grant for an integrated engineering/natural resource investigation to increase water consumption efficiencies at the Whitefish Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) for long-term cost savings to municipal rate payers and to protect in-stream flows and water quality in Haskill Creek, Viking Creek and Whitefish Lake. The application is due May 15. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to sponsor the DNRC grant on behalf of WFLI for the Whitefish water system.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**310's**

**DEPT HUD CA**, FL2016017C, Bowser Spring Creek, complaint: Discussion held. Verdell Jackson made a motion “to table until the May 310-meeting.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLSON**, FL2015046, Swan River, 4/11 phone poll/dock permit mod.: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the 4/11/2016 phone poll.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLUMMER**, FL2016018, Flathead River, dock/fill: Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the application as submitted. The 15-day waiting period is waived.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



### **NEW BUSINESS**

**NRCS COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENT:** Angel Rosario, NRCS, stated the Cooperative Working Agreement between FCD, NRCS and DNRC signed in 2014 was to be reviewed and signed every several years. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the *Cooperative Working Agreement* between NRCS, FCD and DNRC which was signed in 2014.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman, Ronald Buentemeier signed the document for 2016.

**CERTIFICATION OF NRCS COOPERATOR AGREEMENT:** Angel Rosario reviewed the *Certification of NRCS Cooperator Agreement* with NRCS which was signed in 2010. No action needed.

**INVESTMENT OF FUNDS:** John Ellis reported he had talked with the Flathead County Treasurer’s office and will also contact the Flathead County Finance office about the possibility of investing some of the settlement funds. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to table.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**KRAUSE CREEK PROJECT:** Camisha Sawtelle reported a preliminary report for Krause Creek was in supervisors meeting packets, and a more detailed report was received just today. She noted that the grant application deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, however the work on the Garner property on Krause Creek would not begin until July 2017 pending grant funding. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “that the FCD sponsor a grant proposed under the DNRC RRGL program for Krause Creek restoration work and watershed group. Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dean Sirucek amended the motion to add “the grant application will be for \$125,000.00. The FCD reserves the right to amend or withdraw the grant application if deemed necessary.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**COST-SHARE (RIEL):** Discussion held. Ronald Buentemeier made a motion “to approve the phone poll for payment of the Riel cost-share in the amount of \$2527.50.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**USGS FLATHEAD RV/FOYS BEND STREAM GAGE AGREE & PMT:** Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the USGS Foys Bend Stream Gage Agreement and payment in the amount of \$1700 from the settlement funds account.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BSWC WATERSHED PLANNING GR #WMG-16-0001:** Discussion held. Camisha Sawtelle made a motion “to approve the SWCDM invoice in the amount of \$5000 and submit to DNRC for payment.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUDGET:** The March End of Month budget report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion to “approve the March End of Month budget report.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



## **REPORTS**

**NRCS REPORT:** Angél Rosario, NRCS reported:

### ***EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)***

- Follow up visits and Practice Certifications
- 12 Applications for 2016 Funding. (\$350,000)
- Diamond B Tree/Shrub Planting

### ***ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)***

- Tentative Education Workshop on August 9

### ***CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)***

- New Sign up – 3 Applications

### ***Other***

- Montana Forest Landowners Seminar
- Building Lease Renewal
- Snow Report

**RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:** Valerie Kurth submitted the following report:

***Cost-Share Program:*** Two of the five 2015-16 cost-share projects have been completed and paid. All completion paperwork is due May 1, and follow-up site visits will occur in May. We have received several inquiries about the program (phone and in-person), but no applications have been submitted for the 2016-17 cycle so far.

***College Scholarships:*** The students and their respective high schools have all been notified about their scholarship awards. The awards ceremonies will be held in May: Glacier HS – May 18<sup>th</sup>, Flathead HS – May 25<sup>th</sup>, and Whitefish HS May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### ***District Office and Outreach***

1. The personnel committee met on 4/14/16. The committee finalized recommendations for the personnel policy and revised job descriptions.
2. I sent the general informational letter regarding livestock management to several landowners.
3. The April advertisements were for the cost-share program and camp sponsorships.
4. Deep aquifer presentation 4/6/16 - Sarah Bowman and I put together a display board for FCD, and we had literature available about stream permits, landowner programs, and the watershed restoration plan.
5. I contacted Laurie Zeller (DNRC) regarding technical assistance for 310 complaints FL2016007C – FL2016009C. I am working to get estimates for a technical review from two local consultants and setting up a meeting with the Flathead County Attorney.
6. I submitted the FCD comments on the draft Floodplain and Floodway Management regulations to Flathead County Planning and Zoning.



**Family Forestry Expo:** The Expo committee met on 4/5/16 and 4/19/16. Expo will be May 2-7, 2016.

***Flood Awareness Day:***

I finalized many event details throughout April, including the schedule, t-shirt order and delivery, lunch order, sand delivery and removal, liability certificate, and station leader coordination. Flood Awareness Day (4/21/16) went very well, and I received positive feedback from teachers and station leaders. Approximately 90 students attended, accompanied by 6 teachers and 2 parents. Thirteen volunteers were involved as station leaders, including agency personnel from DNRC (local and Helena), Army Corps of Engineers, City of Kalispell. Pete Woll and Dean Sirucek helped with guiding groups and logistics. Sarah Bowman developed and led a new station on developing in a floodplain, and it went very well.

***Krause Creek:*** The consultants conducted field work March 28-30<sup>th</sup>, and I facilitated landowner access and provided historical documents (310 applications and aerial photos). The consultants are working on the technical report. I wrote and submitted the quarterly report for the existing planning grant. I made preliminary inquiries to DNRC, FWP, and USFS about letters of support for a potential construction grant.

***Seedling Program:*** The seedlings were delivered on April 22. Angel Rosario, Ginger Kauffman, and Sarah Bowman helped pick up and distribute the orders because I was out of the office.

***Sourcebook Curriculum Project:*** Lori Curtis and I are conducting outreach for the second Educators' Guide workshop, which will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. The goal of this workshop is to collect input from educators who are already involved in the project and who have tested lessons in their classes. This input will be used to finalize the Guide. Teachers will have the option of receiving professional development credits for attending the workshop.

***Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)/Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)***

1. Sarah Bowman and I met with Mike Koopal and Lori Curtis at the Whitefish Lake Institute on 4/4/16 and with Karin Hilding (City of Whitefish) on 4/13/16 to discuss potential collaborative projects.
2. I assisted Sarah Bowman with flow measurements at the Ashley Creek outlet on 4/5/16. She will continue taking flow measurements at that location every 2 weeks throughout the summer and fall.
3. Sarah Bowman and I attended the Flathead River Commission meeting on 4/18/16 to tell them about the WRP and solicit input.
4. Sarah Bowman and I completed the quarterly report for the Watershed Management Program grant (which funds the FCD portion of the BSWC program host site fee).



**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT:** Dean Sirucek reported a meeting was held April 20 which included discussion on the BNSF Rail Safety Plan, AIS checking stations and cost-share of two AIS detection canines, Trust Fund returns (oil & gas), budget reductions, grants, 501(c)(3) designation, and a presentation from the *Waters for the Flathead's Future* group. The next meeting will be June 15<sup>th</sup> in Kalispell.

**FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD:** Dean Sirucek reported the last meeting included a family zoning change which went to the Commissioners with a positive report, and hearing and review of comments on the Floodplain Regulations. The next meeting will include a review of the Lakeshore Regulations and applications for a seawall on the north shore of Flathead Lake. A Floodplain Rules workshop will be held in June. Discussion held.

**MACD REPORT:** Pete Woll reported today's MACD Executive Board phone call included discussion on MACD Committees, and SWCDM's purchase of two pickups without MACD Board approval.

**WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD:** John Ellis reported the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting included a conditional use permit for 5 new gaming machines in the VFW Post, a request to rezone property which includes a church, and a request for a small subdivision on Hagen Heights. No May meeting.

**FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC):** Mark Siderius reported Valerie Kurth & Sarah Bowman gave a presentation on the Watershed Restoration Plan which Sarah is working on. The FRC also received a thank-you letter from John Wheaton & James Rose, USGS, who gave the Deep Aquifer presentation on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL:** Camisha Sawtelle reported the next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CLARK FORK TASK FORCE (CFTF):** Verdell Jackson reported the meeting included discussion on funding and re-focusing the CFTF. Verdell has been appointed to the planning committee. Discussion held.

**SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT:** Lori Curtis submitted the following:  
*CORE Watershed Education Committee: Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum Development Project status:*

**PHASE V ACTIVITIES**

**1) MEETINGS**

- a. The CORE Watershed Education Committee will not meet again until the May Workshop. A flier for the Workshop is available.

**2) SOURCEBOOK FUNDING**

- a. I was asked at the last FCD board meeting to create a reminder that the Sourcebook Project will be seeking funding for a reprinting of the Flathead Watershed Sourcebook. The total reprinting costs will be approximately \$20K. Any commitment from FCD for this project will be most appreciated. The Curriculum Guide will be introduced in October 2016. Having Sourcebooks printed and available sometime around October would be



advantageous to teachers who wish to employ the Guide. We have not yet applied for other funding for this printing.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF**

- **FORESTRY EXPO:** Supervisors were asked to sign up to help at the FCD Riparian Station for the Family Forestry Expo, May 2-7
- **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS & CEREMONY AWARDS:** Supervisors were asked if they would be available to present at the high schools' awards ceremonies.
- **STALOWY/BEAR CREEK 310 FILE COPIES:** Copies of all Stalowy 310 files will be distributed to FCD Board members via paper copy or on a thumb drive for review prior to the May 9<sup>th</sup> 310-meeting. Discussion held regarding the need for better views of the project. The Board requested Valerie Kurth contact Stalowy's attorney regarding permission to do a drone fly over of the site.
- **EAGLE BEND WEST HOA REQUEST:** The district office received a letter from Eagle Bend West HOA President, Bill Whitsitt, requesting an informational meeting with homeowner association leaders and property managers sometime in the next few weeks regarding what can or cannot be done in their area along Flathead River. Office staff is unavailable for the next several weeks and Mr. Whitsitt could not attend this evening's meeting to talk directly with the board. Therefore, Mr. Whitsitt was given copies of brochures, 310-application forms, Adopted Rules and recorded easements. Pete Woll stated he will contact Mr. Whitsitt.
- **TRUMBULL CREEK PROJECT:** Mark Siderius reported the sub-contractor hired by RLK Hydro is not available to finish burning the slash piles at the Trumbull Creek restoration site. RLK Hydro is no longer in business and burning needs to be done this week. Discussion held regarding contacting another contractor. This will be placed on the May 310-meeting agenda.

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

***Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:***

**5/9/2016**  
**(Date)**

**Ronald Buentemeier**  
**(Signature)**

**Chairman**  
**(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)**

